

## WDC caps pokie nos

THE Waitomo District Council has put a permanent cap on the number of gaming machines allowed in the district to minimise the harm caused by gambling.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the council adopted its Policy on Gambling Venues which included changes such as capping the total number



**CAPPED:** Waitomo District Council revised policy on gambling venues now limits the total amount of gaming machines in the district to 77.

of gaming machines in the Waitomo district to 77 (currently 68) and limiting the Te Kuiti urban area to a maximum of five gaming venues.

Other changes include increasing the number of machines a new class 4 gambling venue can install from five to nine and the adoption of a relocation clause.

The adopted policy states: "In deciding on the district cap, council has drawn a balance between reducing the social harm of gambling and benefits arising from generation of community funding. Consideration was also given to the policy objective of controlling the growth of gambling in the district. The status quo, being one of the options was in a flux - the total number of machines in the district as at April 1, 2014, was 82 but during the review the number reduced to 68. The district cap arrived at is a balance between these two."

In relation to limiting the number of gaming venues in the Te Kuiti urban area to five the policy states: "As at April 1, 2014, the number of people per gaming machine in Te Kuiti was 61 which is substantially more than the district average of 109 per gaming machine."

"The cap on the number of class 4 gaming venues in Te Kuiti has been introduced to discourage any further concentration of venues within the Te Kuiti urban area in consideration of the potential harm of gambling."

### SUBMISSIONS

Mayor Brian Hanna says the policy, that's reviewed every three years, went through a rigorous submission process before being adopted.

"Our initial thought on the relocation policy was not to allow it, but that changed after some very informative submissions.

"In the event of a natural disaster, or for some other reason, an existing operator wanted to move and it didn't breach the overall number of venues or machines, we saw no reason to prevent it."

He says the changes draw a balance between reducing the social harm of gambling and financial viability for venue operators.

"Throughout the whole process, we made sure we took the community interests on board in terms of minimising the amount of harm caused by gambling and I think introducing the cap is a fair reflection of that."

## Hoping for your help



**ALL ABOUT HOPE:** Whether it's purchasing merchandise or making a donation, every little bit counts on Daffodil Day. Tomorrow is the Cancer Society's annual appeal and it's a cause Te Kuiti Bakery owners Elvis and Jennifer Lim are happy to help. The couple is encouraging North King Country residents to do the same, as one in three Kiwis are affected by cancer. Daffodil Day is the major funding source for the charity, which researches causes and treatment of all types of cancer as well as providing a range of support services. Daffodil Day stalls will be out on the streets in both Te Kuiti and Otorohanga tomorrow, so please show your support. For more information visit the website - [daffodilday.org.nz](http://daffodilday.org.nz)

## Unwelcome 'guests' raise farmers' anger

BY **ROBBIE KAY**

"IGNORANT" and "arrogant" are a couple of the printable words some North King Country west coast farmers are using to describe people who come onto their land without permission.

Kawhia Police constable Perry Griffin says farmers have contacted him recently about unwelcome

'guests' including pig hunters, cutting through paddocks and disturbing stock.

"A lot of damage can be caused at this time of year during lambing and calving, so it's vital for members of the public to show some respect, particularly when they want to pass through private farmland to access a Department of Conservation (DOC) block," says Mr Griffin.

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